



Over 2000 years ago, a man lived in Palestine who was unique in every way, from His conception to His death. His teachings appealed to many but outraged others. He made astonishing claims and performed many miracles. The Jewish and Roman authorities sentenced Him to be crucified as a criminal. He was called Jesus, Prophet, Master, Messiah, Savior, and even Lord and God. Others called Him a sinner, fool, blasphemer, and even the chief of demons.

Today, people hold similarly mixed views of Him. Buddhists see Him as a wise and enlightened man as do Hindus, who hold Him to be an incarnation of one of many gods. Unitarians call Him a great teacher and faith healer. Muslims say He is a great prophet. But devout Christians believe Him uniquely to be God in human flesh. This claim, according to Islam, is the greatest blasphemy, "kufr," (Surah 5:72), and the unpardonable sin (Surah 4:116).

These claims, that Jesus Christ is both God and not-God cannot be true at the same time.

Who is Jesus? A man? God? Both?

To find the answer, we must turn to the Bible, the main record of God's promised Messiah and of Jesus' life and teaching. It has been proven to be a reliable historical record containing over 24,600 partial and complete manuscripts that date back to the second century. Historical, scientific, archeological, and prophetic evidence supports the facts presented in the Bible. While no amount of evidence may convince a skeptic, God is willing to show truth to the humble who sincerely seek it.

Jesus according to the Bible

Jesus Christ is the prominent person repeatedly pointed to in the Bible. He is unique and exclusive. Jesus possesses two natures — fully God and yet fully human at the same time.

Testimony of the Old Testament

The Promised Messiah Who Was Human

The prophecies of the Old Testament foretold and portrayed a human Messiah born of the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15); a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) from the nation of Israel (Isaiah 9:6) of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10); David's descendant (2 Samuel 7:14-16; Isaiah 11:1); the Son of Man (Daniel 7:14) born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2); a man of sorrow (Isaiah 53:1-2) who would suffer to bear our sins (Isaiah 53:4-6) and whose hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16); one who would be crucified among thieves (Isaiah 53:12), be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9), rise from death (Psalm 16:8-10; 30:3), and be the promised King of all the earth (Ezekiel 21:25-27).

The Promised Messiah Who Was Divine

The Old Testament equated the coming Messiah with God; He would be an eternal, immortal being possessing abilities, attributes, and honors that are reserved for God.

Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah as Mighty God when he wrote, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6,7).

Daniel spoke of the Son of Man to whom would be given "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:14). Similarly Zechariah foretold of the Lord descending from heaven and being king over all the earth (Zechariah 14:1-9).

Micah prophesied of a ruler who is an Eternal Being and would be born in Bethlehem, saying that His "origins are from the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2). Such titles, honor, and power belong only to Jehovah God.

Testimony of the New Testament

The New Testament's record of Jesus' teachings and actions reveals His two distinctive natures. Jesus is God-man, fully God and fully human. While on earth Jesus operated within the limitations of His humanity (John 4:6, 19:28) and in the power of His deity (John 11:43).

Fully Man: Jesus' human life

Jesus called Himself "Son of Man," an expression that appears 81 times in the Gospels that literally means "son of the human being." He was born of a virgin (Luke 1:26, 37); grew up as normal child (Luke 2:40, 52); held a normal job (Mark 6:3); wept (John 11:35); experienced fatigue (John 4:6), thirst (John 4:7), and hunger (Luke 4:2); was tempted (Luke 4:2); spat upon (Mark 14:65); rejected (Luke 9:22); mocked (Matthew 27:29); and forsaken by the Father (Matthew 27:46). He prayed (Mark 1:35), bled (John 19:34), died on the cross (John 19:30), and bodily rose again (Luke 24:39).

Fully God: Jesus called the Son of God

Jesus is called "The Son of God" 40 times. This title means "God, the son" and typically refers to a position and power reserved for deity.

Jesus referred to Himself as "the Son of God" (John 3:16-18; 5:25; 10:36). The Almighty God called Jesus "Beloved Son" at His baptism (Matthew 3:17) and transfiguration (Mark 9:2-7). The angel of heaven called Him "Son of the Highest" (Luke 1:32). His disciples Peter (Matthew 16:15-16) and Nathanael (John 1:49-50), Martha (John 11:27), and demons (Matthew 8:29; Mark 3:11) all referred to Him as the Son of God.

The high priests understood that Jesus' profession to be the Son of God was a claim to His deity. They have tried to kill Him (John 5:18), stone Him (John 10:30-33), accuse Him of blasphemy (John 10:46), and sentence Him to death (John 19:7).

The reference "Son of God" does not mean that Jesus is the literal offspring of God as result of sexual relations with Mary. The Bible clearly declares that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is Spirit (John 4:24), not having flesh and bones (Luke 24:39). But Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, is the manifestation of God in human flesh.

Fully God: Jesus demonstrates His Deity. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection fulfilled Old Testament Messianic prophecies (Luke 24:46-47). His sinless and perfect life (1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:21-24) is evidence of his being like no other man. He accepted worship from many, an act that is reserved only for God (Matthew 2:11; Matthew 14:33; 8:2; John 20:28).

His claims to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-11), control the eternal destinies of people (John 8:24; cf. Luke 12:8-9; John 5:22, 27-29), answer prayer (John 14:13-14), raise the dead for judgment (John 5:24-29; Acts 10:42), and judge the nations (Matthew 25:31-41) are evidences of His own assertion to deity.

Fully God: Apostles' writings affirm Jesus as God. John's gospel declares Jesus to be the word of God (John 1:1) and Creator of all things (John 1:3). He states that God/Word/Creator became flesh and lived among us (John 1:14; 1 John 4:2; 2 John 7).

The apostle Peter refers to Jesus as "our God and Savior" (1 Peter 2:1). Thomas calls Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

The apostle Paul demonstrates from the Hebrew Scriptures that Jesus is the promised Messiah (Acts 28:23) and proclaims Jesus as

- Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13)
- God's fullness revealed in bodily form: "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9) and "... in him should all fullness dwell" (Colossians 1:19).
- The perfect revelation of God whom we can't see: "[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God..." (Colossians 1:15) "... Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- God became man "... God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16).
- Jesus is equal to God yet in the likeness of man: "...Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:5-8).

How Can You Respond?

Who is Jesus Christ according to the Bible? He is God who came in human flesh, lived a perfect life, died on the cross in our place to satisfy God's justice for sin, and was raised from the dead. He has gone to prepare a place in heaven for those who believe on Him, and one day, He will return to rule the earth and judge the whole world. The biblical evidence for the human and divine nature of Jesus is conclusive and irrefutable.

We must respond to His call and love. Jesus said, "Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" John 8:24.

Jesus is the only person who can give you eternal life and forgiveness of sins. Place your hope in Him today.

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Who is
Jesus Christ
according to the Bible?
Man? God?
Or Both?